

December 17, 2001

Renata Hesse
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Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
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Dear Ms. Hesse:

I write to register my hope that the government will work in a productive fashion with Microsoft and other technology interests in crafting a positive working relationship. I felt as though the federal government's position against Microsoft was excessive and anti-business.

After all, without Microsoft, what would the American workplace look like? How would it function without their useful products? Things would be less functional, and less efficient.

Microsoft is the market leader, and other companies sought to gain by promoting additional legal action against Microsoft. Lawyers and lobbyists from other companies ought not determine the shape of the tech industry, consumers should.

The provisions of the settlement make it easy for other companies to have market access. Every new Microsoft operating system will have to include a mechanism that readily allows end users to remove or re-enable Microsoft's middleware products.

While end users can already remove Microsoft middleware from Windows XP, this settlement would make it easier for users to switch and compare among competing middleware products.

I sincerely hope that Judge Kollar Kotelly approves the settlement.

Regards,

Mark Fleming
Executive Director
Wake Forest
Chamber of Commerce